

Fund lawyer Thurgood Marshall in the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* case that outlawed school segregation.

Over the course of his career, Franklin served on the National Council on the Humanities, and the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, as well as being the chair of President Clinton's Race Initiative Advisory Board. He has also been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the inaugural W.E.B. DuBois Award from Fisk University Alumni Association, and the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement Society.

During his life, Franklin saw his challenge as being "to weave into the fabric of American history enough of the presence of blacks so that the story of the United States could be told adequately and fairly." Franklin's life, achievements and contributions has had a profound influence on the field of history, in particular, African American history. With this resolution, Franklin's legacy and spirit will endure for years to come.

I commend Representative MELVIN WATT for introducing H. Res. 320, a resolution that honors the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin, and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, if there ever were a genuine personification of those treasured values which we call scholarship, commitment, and leadership, Professor John Hope Franklin was it. Franklin, who passed away last month at a youthful ninety-four, lived these values everyday of his distinguished life as one of the twentieth century's most accomplished historians. His celebrated work reflected the trials of his own life and his own race, so that the people of the United States, and the citizens of the world, could better appreciate, better understand, and better embrace our tumultuous—yet always forward-marching—journey.

John Hope Franklin's career began over sixty years ago when, despite rejection from the University of Oklahoma due to the color of his skin, he earned a degree from Fisk University. Franklin then went on to receive a doctorate in history from Harvard University at the age of twenty-six. From there, he entered teaching, seeking to share his deep knowledge of the American experience with his students. Eventually, his acumen as an historian and skill as an instructor led Brooklyn College to name him as the nation's first African-American Chair of a major history department, a position which earned him the respect and prestige he had been denied years previously. John Hope, as his friends knew him, had achieved the notoriety he had worked hard to deserve.

From Brooklyn College, John Hope Franklin would go on to teach at the University of Chicago and Duke University. He would be honored at the latter institution with the distinction of James B. Duke Professor of History, eventually reaching "emeritus" status in that position. Furthermore, Franklin was the recipient of such honors and accolades as the John W. Kluge Prize in the Human Sciences, a Jefferson Lecturer of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and, in 1995, was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, presented by President William Jefferson Clinton, for his contributions and service to American society.

Mr. Franklin's honors and titles are impressive and indeed well-deserved. Yet, they do not tell the entire story of this man's extraordinary impact. As an historian, John Hope Franklin sought to tell the story of his fellow men of color, to instill within our nation an understanding of the struggle over race that has defined so much of our history. His seminal work, *From Slavery to Freedom*, remains to this day a timeless and signature examination of African-American history. It served to illustrate how the history of the United States and the history of racial tensions are so deeply intertwined. Along with the rest of his extensive academic work, *From Slavery to Freedom* constitutes a tremendous educational legacy for which our nation will always remain filled with gratitude to have received.

The ivory towers and rolling lawns of academia, however, could not confine the enlightening force of John Hope Franklin's talents. In 1954, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and a talented lawyer named Thurgood Marshall took up a lawsuit in the United States Supreme Court against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. Franklin joined this team, utilizing his knowledge and understanding of race relations and the African-American experience to help Marshall win a court decision that forever changed these United States, serving as the first stone tossed in the pond of injustice, releasing countless ripples calling for social equality and civil rights.

Whether examining the history that had been written by others, or working to write the next pages himself, the potency of John Hope Franklin's impact on the understanding of our journey as a nation, and of our identity as a people places him among the giants of American historical study. His exposure and exploration of the path our nation has taken as it has encountered the struggles of racial strife are lasting contributions to the fulfillment of our nation's promise, and will serve to forever shine a light on the darkness of misunderstanding and ignorance.

It is with heartfelt gratitude and unwavering appreciation toward the accomplishments and contributions of the venerable John Hope Franklin, that I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in support of House Resolution 302, so that we may honor this man who embodied and embraced lasting values of scholarship and service, and who told the story of the United States—our story—with such eloquence and poignancy; a story of which he himself was frequently a resounding character.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 320, which honors the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin.

Dr. Franklin was a monumental figure in the field of African-American history. In 1947, he published *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans*. This groundbreaking work is considered the definitive history of the African-American experience in the United States. He continually updated the book over the next half-century, selling over 3 million copies. In 1979, he again made history by becoming the first African-American to serve as President of the American Historical Association. Dr. Franklin is the recipient of numerous awards including the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, the Kluge Prize for lifetime achievement in the humanities, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Franklin's work forced millions of Americans to re-examine the history of the United

States and illuminated the African-American experience for people of all races and creeds. Perhaps more than any other figure, Dr. Franklin has crafted a true narrative of African-American history that speaks to the core of America's past and present.

On March 25, 2009, Dr. Franklin passed away in Durham, North Carolina. As great as his presence was, it is likely that his absence will loom even larger. However, his work will forever serve as a testament to his intellectual rigor and original scholarship. He will continue educating generations of American to come on the issues of race and our complex history. Today, we honor a life of service and achievement that will not be forgotten and I am proud to join with my colleagues in supporting this important resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 320.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 254) recognizing the designation of March 2009 as Irish-American Heritage Month and honoring the significance of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 254

Whereas from the earliest days of the Nation, America has inspired the hopes and dreams of countless individuals from around the world in search of a better life for themselves and their children;

Whereas these individuals have come to share in America's gifts of freedom, justice, and opportunity, and, in turn, America's democracy and great diversity owe their success in large part to these immigrants;

Whereas, since before the United States was even founded, Irish men and women undertook the perilous journey to make their home in this place of hope and promise, making inestimable contributions to their new country, both during the struggle for independence and in the founding of the republic;

Whereas nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin and 19 Presidents of the United States can proudly claim Irish heritage, including the first President of the United States, George Washington;

Whereas Irish immigrants who came to the United States during the Great Famine of the 1840's helped transform America's largest cities, building them into dynamic centers of commerce and industry, and the cultural, economic, and spiritual contributions of these immigrants continue to be evident today throughout the United States;

Whereas, with strength, courage, wit, and creativity, Irish-Americans have flourished, making significant contributions in all areas of American life;

Whereas Irish-American writers such as Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and George Bernard Shaw transformed American literature, entrepreneurs like Henry Ford helped revolutionize American transportation and industry, performers such as Gregory Peck, John Wayne, and Helen Hayes enriched the arts, and social reformers such as suffragist Leonora Barry and labor organizer Mary Kenney O'Sullivan fought for the rights of others;

Whereas Irish-Americans have served ably in their communities in numerous capacities, such as public safety and government, including four-term New York State Governor Alfred E. Smith, and in the Armed Services in every war in which the United States has ever fought, including patriots such as Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier of World War II;

Whereas approximately one in four Americans trace at least part of their ancestry to Ireland;

Whereas generations of Irish-Americans have worked alongside their fellow Americans to build a more perfect Union, and the United States is a stronger country because of them;

Whereas it is fitting that the House of Representatives honor the rich heritage, enduring contributions, and firm values of the Irish-Americans who continue to enrich and strengthen American families, communities, ideals, and character; and

Whereas President Barack Obama proclaimed March 2009 as Irish-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of United States; and

(2) encourages Americans to celebrate Irish-American heritage with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, representing the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and being one of Irish heritage, I am happy to rise in support of this resolution, House Resolution 254, which is a bill to recognize the importance of Irish-American heritage and to honor the significance of Irish-Americans in the history of the United States.

This bill was introduced by my friend and colleague last month, CAROLYN MCCARTHY of New York, on St. Patrick's Day, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform amended the measure on April 2 in order that it be reported by unanimous consent.

House Resolution 254 gives the Members of this Chamber the chance to honor the valuable contributions that Americans of Irish heritage have made to our country since its inception. In fact, nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were men of Irish origin, and Irish-Americans have served in the Armed Services for this country in every war in which the United States has ever fought. At least 19 Presidents of the United States can claim Irish heritage, including our current President, Barack Obama.

The works of Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald and George Bernard Shaw remain invaluable parts of our literary history. Artists including Gregory Peck, John Wayne and Helen Hayes have helped enrich our Nation's culture, and social reformers such as suffragist Leonora Barry and labor organizer Mary Kenny O'Sullivan fought to extend basic rights to others. Henry Ford's assembly line revolutionized manufacturing, and Irish immigrants who settled here in the 1840s helped to make our largest cities into centers of commerce and industry.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentlelady from New York, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, for sponsoring this measure. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), for helping us to get it to the floor today.

Many emigrated here from Ireland, hoping to share in our freedom and prosperity. In turn, they have helped to make our country great. For their countless contributions to American history and progress, I urge my colleagues to support the quick passage of House Resolution 254.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What began with 300,000 Irish immigrants in 1776 has grown to more than 44 million Irish-Americans today. Throughout our Nation's history, the Irish who came to America saw the promise and hope for their future. Once here, they have been instrumental in building a Nation from the ground up—working on farms, constructing railroads and creating major centers of commerce throughout the country. The Irish have done much to build up this country with their blood, sweat and tears. We have all seen countless ways in which these Irish-Americans have advanced our Nation politically, economically and culturally.

Since first arriving here, the Irish in America have demonstrated a commitment to the growth and prosperity of the Nation through their talent and their values. Their contributions have represented the depth and breadth of American society from the most humble to the most exalted. Nineteen Presidents, including George Washington, and at least eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish ancestry. Two hundred sixty-

three recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor were born in Ireland, and the list of contributions by Irish-Americans goes on: Elizabeth Cady Stanton's successful fight for women's voting rights; John Barry, the first flag officer of the United States Navy; James Hoban's architectural design for the White House; and Annie Moore's brave passage through Ellis Island as America's first immigrant.

The Irish in America have recognized and have spread the message of opportunity as a result of their great success in our country. The history of our country has shown that the Irish have strengthened the United States in all facets of our growth and development. One in four Americans can trace part of their ancestry to Ireland, including ancestors on my mother's side of my family. Therefore, it is no wonder that the Irish in America have in the past and will continue in the future to strengthen and enrich our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution.

Having no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY). As others are, she is also traveling to Washington at this time, and wanted to be here for this resolution. I ask our colleagues to join Member CAROLYN MCCARTHY in supporting the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 254, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A Resolution recognizing the contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING KENTUCKY ICE STORM VOLUNTEERS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 214) recognizing the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 214

Whereas the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a devastating ice storm on January 26, 2009, that left more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity;

Whereas the ice storm is considered the worst natural disaster in Kentucky history;